

## Press Release Five-Year Plan

### CA continues support of local stakeholders addressing water pollution; updated plan focuses efforts in priority waterbodies such as Tomales Bay

In December 2020, US EPA approved California's 2020-2025 Nonpoint Source Program Implementation Plan, allowing California to continue seeking grant funds from US EPA under Clean Water Act (CWA) section 319. Since 2004, the State Water Board has received from US EPA and awarded over \$65 million of Clean Water Act 319 grant funds to local projects to reduce nonpoint source pollution in waters of the state (Figure 1).

In July 2020, US EPA awarded the State Water Board \$8.7 million under CWA 319, funds essential for achieving the goals of California's recently approved Nonpoint Source Program Implementation Plan. The annual award supports Water Board staff who develop permits, educate stakeholders, conduct inspections, and work to find effective solutions for water quality problems. The annual award also supports local projects to make waters safer for people and wildlife, such as reducing sediment runoff after wildfire, restoring stream habitat affected by legacy timber activities, controlling pollution from grazing and livestock operations, and planting cover crops to improve soil health. Table 1 lists projects selected to receive funding in the most recent round of funding. Proposals are being reviewed currently for the next round of CWA 319 grant funding.

One notable example of success from CWA 319 funding is *Conserving Our Watersheds*, an interagency partnership among the North Coast Water Board, ranchers, and Point Reyes National Seashore that the State Water Board has supported with CWA 319 grant funds since 2009. This partnership reduces runoff of sediment, nutrients, and bacteria from livestock operations to Tomales Bay. In 2020, the State Water Board approved more than \$700,000 to help ranchers implement management practices on their land, thereby helping to ensure Tomales Bay continues to sustain oyster production and recreational uses like kayaking and fishing. Together with other sources of funding, models estimate that the partnership prevents nearly 4,000 pounds of nitrogen, 150,000 pounds of phosphorus, and 1,300 tons of sediment from entering Tomales Bay per year.

Table 1: Project Proposals Approved for 2020 CWA 319 Grant Funding

Grantee	Project Title	Project Description	Funding Amount	Match Amount	Total Project Amount
Eel River Recovery Project	Tenmile Creek Streambank Erosion Prevention and Riparian Restoration	Reduce sedimentation to Tenmile Creek, a major tributary to South Fork Eel River, and restore riparian habitat to promote fish habitat improvement and ecological recovery.	\$473,500	\$4,320	\$477,820
California Trout, Inc	Hart Ranch Stock Watering and Riparian Fence Project	Improve water quality in the Little Shasta River by reconnecting cold-water springs, installing off-stream	\$674,129	\$238,112	\$912,241

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		watering system, upgrading water infrastructure, and installing fencing to facilitate rotational grazing and cattle exclusion from stream.			
Sonoma Resource Conservation District	Post-Fire Recovery and Sediment Reduction in Mark West Creek	Control and minimize sedimentation to Mark West Creek, a coho-bearing stream and tributary to the Russian River, by reconstructing a retaining wall destroyed in the 2017 Tubbs Fire, planting riparian vegetation, installing wattles and erosion control blankets, and hydroseeding.	\$342,358	\$60,000	\$402,358
Napa County Public Works	Napa River Restoration: Oakville to Oak Knoll, Group D, Phase 2	Restore and enhance long-term and floodplain function, improve quality and resilience of aquatic and terrestrial riparian habitat, and reduce property damage and sediment impacts from channel incision and streambank erosion along the Napa River.	\$800,000	\$285,000	\$1,085,000
Marin Resource Conservation District	Conserving Our Watersheds (COW): Collaborative Conservation Actions by Farmers	Implement management practices to reduce sediment and nutrient discharges in partnership with private landowners and the Point Reyes National Seashore at confined animal facilities and ranches in the Tomales Bay Watershed and Stemple Creek-Estero de San Antonio Hydrologic Area.	\$266,366	\$100,000	\$366,366

Grantee	Project Title	Project Description	Funding Amount	Match Amount	Total Project Amount
Earth Island Institute	Carpinteria Creek Sediment Reduction and Habitat Enhancement Project	Provide habitat for Southern Steelhead Trout, reduce sedimentation to Carpinteria creek, and improve public safety by reinforcing structures damaged by mud and debris flow after the Thomas Fire in Santa Barbara county.	\$798,653	\$0	\$798,653
Truckee River Watershed Council	Euer Valley Restoration Project Phase 1	Reduce sedimentation to South Fork of Prosser Creek, a key tributary of the Middle Truckee River, by restoring a montane meadow floodplain and stabilizing streambanks.	\$589,835	349,600	\$939,435
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$4,400,860</b>	<b>\$1,186,872</b>	<b>\$5,587,732</b>

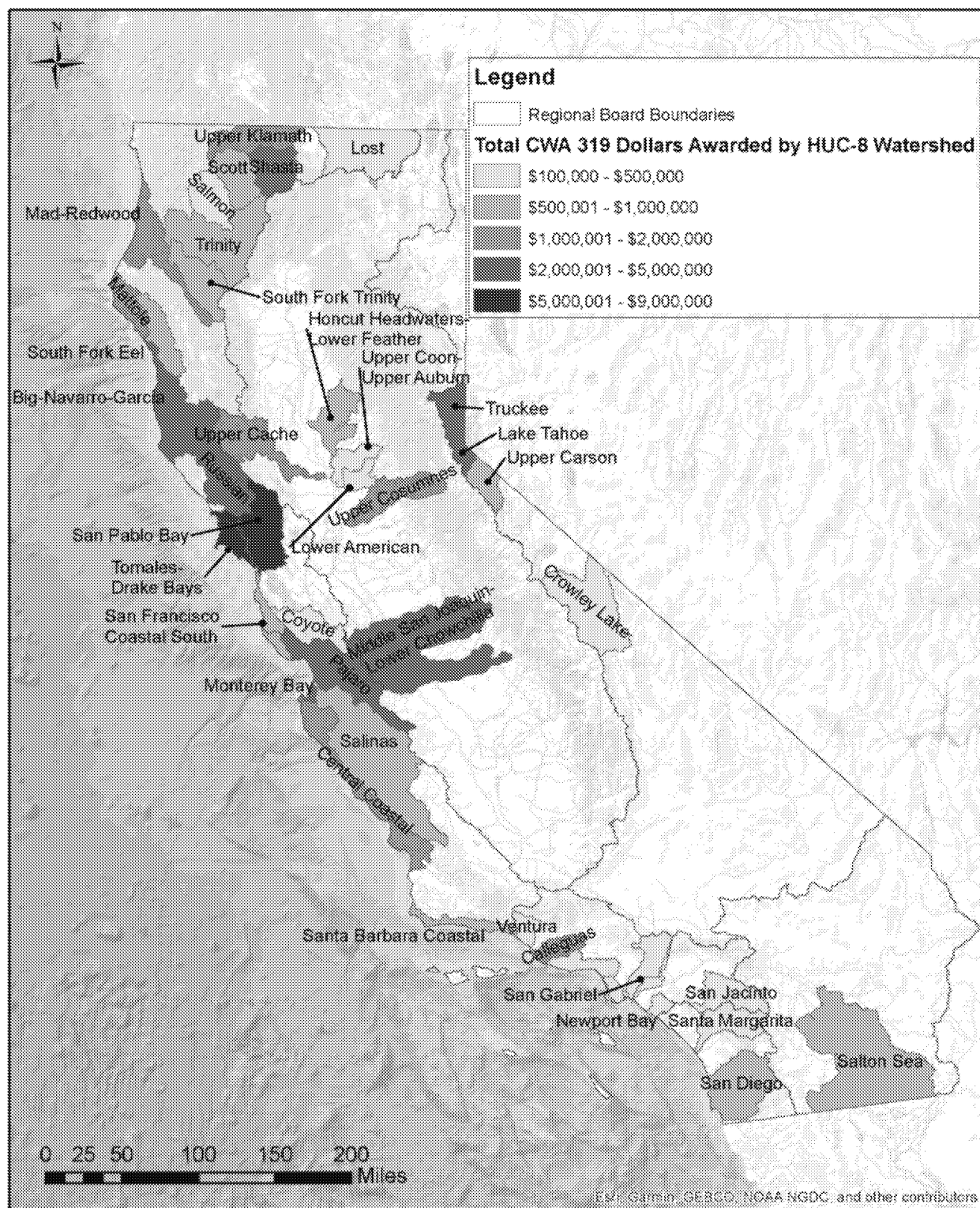


Figure [ SEQ Figure \\* ARABIC ]: Sum of CWA 319 Subawards per Watershed (2004-2020)